The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, operating in the fields of legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

AGITATE
EDUCATE
ORGANIZE!

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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SO-CALLED "NATURAL" LAW IS STUPID PLATITUDE

Wage reduction advocates write ponderously on the "natural law of supply and demand" and on the workers' folly in resisting wage cuts.

This gentry assume a superior air—quite intellectual, you know. They are shocked because workers refuse to accept their edict and scoff at their attempted reasoning.

Other natural laws refer to man's conduct and his relations with his fellow men. These laws are dictated by conscience and education. They are universal in their application and vary at different ages.

A peculiar thing about the "natural law of supply and demand" is that it only applies to wage earners.

When there is an excess of unorganized or partly organized workers, this "law" operates with Spartan sternness. Wages are cut below the living line and bread lines are formed, but there can be no redress, saith our elders and penny-a-liners, who bow before their idol.

The capitalist, however, is immune from the operation of this wondrous statute. When production exceeds demand prices are not cut as is the case with unorganized workers. If they are reduced somewhat it is under the direction of the capitalist, who calls this stabilizing industry."

If this "stabilization" proves ineffective he closes his plant and the community votes him a good citizen and opens soup houses for the employes.

The capitalist trustifies industry, regulates production, sets prices and endows a chair of economics at some university that the workings of this "natural law of supply and demand" may be better understood.

Another peculiar thing about this "natural law" is that it is ineffective when workers are 100 per cent organized.

Confronted by the solidarity of wage earners it is as impotent as he dame who would stay the ocean waves with her broom.

The printing trades, the marine engineers, the seamen and the ladies' garment workers is the latest proof that this "law" is but a mental attitude and consoling fiction to low-wage advocates.

It is an alibi and a justification for debasing workers who fail to see the sham—who do not know that it is a heritage of the by-gone days of individualism.

The "natural law of supply and demand" is one of the stupid platitudes that is used to confuse wage earners.

There is nothing "natural" in a law that does not apply to capitalists and that can be declared unconstitutional by any 100 per cent trade union.

ROADS YELL FOR MORE.

Washington, June 11.—With $400,000,000 a year clipped off the wages of railroad employes, railroad owners are demanding that the government immediately pay amounts due them while insisting that the government's claims against the railroads be postponed 15 years and that wages be again slashed.

Under the Cummins-Esch act, the government guaranteed expenses during the first six months of this year. Many of the roads have not fed their claims, and it is a question when they will because the roads were sabotaged during the war period by the owners, who were directing their properties under government control. The situation provides vast possibilities for claims against the government. Some owners claim this amount will total $600,000,000, while others insist that it will reach $1,000,000,000.

The government agreed to return the roads in as good physical conditions when they took them over and the owners claim this has not been done. Result: Another haul out of the United States treasury is being arranged for.

Summed up, the railroads, to date, have secured freight and passenger increases, partly to pay increased wages. They have cut their claims $400,000,000 a year, but insist that eight rates be untouched. They are guaranteed expenses and want to ask the government to immediately pay them nearly $1,000,000,000 and then be left alone, while the government's bill against them be postponed.

DON'T FAVOR FREE SPEECH.

Winnipeg, Canada, June 11.—A handful of one big union advocates showed how far they will go to uphold free speech when they attempted to howl down Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, at a mass meeting in this city.

"If you think you are going to intimidate this individual, you are mistaken," said Moore. He challenged the o. b. u. to show what it has accomplished in two years, and life of friction among wage earners.

The so-called revolutionists did that their kind always do—favor free speech if the speaker expresses sentiments they approve. They use methods employed by the worst oppressor of history.

President Moore charged the o. b. u. with causing a condition by which the employers could take advantage of workers against the other. The result is workers are fighting with each other and wasting valuable opportunities while the standard of living is being forced down.

ELECTRICITY TO BE USED.

Chicago, June 11.—In a report to the convention of the National Electric Light association, a committee predicted that electricity will be the economical factor instead of the immediate future. This conclusion is based on a recent investigation. In urging public service to prepare for serving current to the railroad industry, the committee said:

"There are now in the United States alone about 6,500 power companies operating about 7,000 power stations, ready and ready to deliver power to the railroads in the form of electrical energy. These power stations have a total possible amount of energy of a steam locomotive for the same coal bill."

BAD SCHOOL CONDITIONS.

New York, June 11.—An investigation of public schools in this city by the Parents Association shows that thousands of children are being housed in fire traps. It is declared that revolting sanitary conditions prevail in a large number of schools, and that in these conditions, if they were known to parents generally, would lead to a wholesale withdrawal of children from the schools.

The expose has shocked many citizens who have ignored their civic duties.

UPHOLD MINIMUM WAGE.

Washington, June 11.—The District of Columbia court of appeals has upheld the District of Columbia minimum wage law for women and minors.

"It would seem," said Justice Stafford, "that the right of this class to live on a barely decent level and the right of the public to have them so live should outweigh the wishes of those who do not need to work in order to live, and who, therefore, are merely asserting a right to earn money and thereby accumulate property."

In answer to the claim that the law "will breed sovietism," Chief Justice Smith declared that the act will have a contrary effect "because it will demonstrate that this government, as framed by the fathers, has ample power, and those intrusted with the power have the disposition to protect the weak against the strong by administering the law justly."

Justice Van Orsdell dissented. He held, in effect, that when congress declared for the protection of the health and morals of women and children it was legislating in the exercise of "entitled to great respect," but any attempt to make the declaration effective was unconstitutional."

NO ALARMED AT NOISE.

Manchester, England, June 11.—The Manchester Guardian again shows why it is regarded as one of Britain's sanest newspapers in its editorial on "Communism and Common Sense" wherein is given advice to those who become panicky when a soap box orator shouts "revolution."

The editor says "handcuff ratiling" has less effect on these "revolutionists" than has the steady gains of trade unionism.

These communists, says the editor, "is a small group of the Irish fanatics, leading the rump of the British socialist party and a few malcontents from the left wing of the Independent labor party. Its power, in fact, is in no way equal to the noise it creates. But its power will grow steadily the more its power is driven underground. That, again, can surely be derived from the history of similar movements. The holders of the faith will not be frightened by any handcuffing. They are prepared for far more frightened at the considerable conflict of workaday trade unionism."

PUBLIC PRESS FAILS.

Baltimore, June 11.—In an advertisement published in the local press, the church leaders of the industrial democracy says:

"It is a sad commentary on the state of the morals of the public press that it will not give the extensive efforts of industrial conservices save through the medium of paid advertisements. It is reading between the lines the attachment of decent social and industrial conditions will be delayed until public condition is corrected, since a well-informed and intelligently-directed public is essential to the success of the scales are to be held anything like equal."

The league is a national organization composed of members of the Protestant Episcopal church.

OPPOSE UNION GIRLS.

New York, June 11.—Managers of burlesque shows are alarmed at the growing stream of union comedy girls and will establish a clearing house where all employing and discharging will take place and rehearsals for "green" girls will keep up the supply.

Stage managers have become suddenly solicitous for the welfare of the girls. Few medical attendants will be furnished them at hotels while traveling and conditions behind the stage will be improved.

PROTEST FROM PANAMA.

Balboa Heights, Canal Zone, June 11.—The publicity committee of the Panama metal trades council has issued a protest against a statement credited to Secretary of War Weeks that children of laborers in the Panama canal zone is one continued round of pleasure, and that he will committee cap visit the isthmus.

WASTE IN INDUSTRY BLAMED ON EMPLOYER

St. Louis, Mo., June 11.—Responsibility for more than 50 per cent of the waste in industry must be placed at the door of employers and less than 25 per cent is due to labor, according to a report by the American engineering council's committee on elimination of waste in industry.

The committee consists of 16 engineers and scientists who were appointed by Herbert Hoover when he headed, of the council. The report comprises 125,000 words and has been handled most gingerly by these "heller-than-thou" influences that insist capitalists are 100 per cent production perfect while labor is responsible for mankind's social and economic ills.

A examples of waste in various industries the report declares the building industry is only about 50 per cent efficient, the shoe industry about 65 per cent, the metal trades 70 to 75 per cent and the textile industry 60 per cent.

In the building trades alone waste of time and energy, and money through duplications, estimates and bills total millions of dollars annually.

Reference is made to the untold losses through preventable diseases and the cost to the nation because workers are changing from job to job because of unsatisfactory conditions. This high labor turnover, the report says, is a serious drain on the commonest wastes.

The committee shattered another hobby of "public opinion molders" by the statement that the annual losses through strikes is much less than popularly supposed.

CLERGY DEFY EMPLOYERS.

Pittsburgh, Pa., June 11.—The Ministerial union has notified the Pittsburgh Employers' association that it resents the attempt of this commercial organization "to prescribe limits within which the church and other religious organizations may work."

The Employers' association recently gloated over its success in limiting contributions to the Young Women's Christian association because some members of the industrial creed of that organization is offensive to the traders and money lenders. Since then attempts have been by the employers to stop financial contributions to churches whose ministers refuse to limit their discussions of industrial questions to what the employers term "a neutral zone."

In their resolutions condemning this policy the clergymen declare that "this involves the dictation of religious liberty and the right to have of thought and human service they believe to be Christian."

The clergymen also say: "The Pittsburgh Employers' association represents itself as speaking for the employing group—an assumption which we are convinced is contrary to fact."

TEACHERS AND POLITICS.

Wilmette, Ill., June 11.—If there is a "proper decorum and dignity" associated with teaching why are not teachers more active in the movement accorded other professions, ask officers of the American Federation of Teachers in its official bulletin of that organization.

"A year or so ago," these trade unionists say, "several well-known opponents of the American Federation of Teachers, who won for themselves the title of 'great educators' had much to say about the proper and dignity of teaching and tried to compare them with doctors and lawyers in this comparison it, of course, a dismal failure from every angle. Would that such a comparison were true! We are the servants of teachers serving on boards of education, in municipal offices, state legislatures or congress, but still engaged in their vocation? The majority of all office-holders in the United States are lawyers. The medical profession is well represented. To these are added all the rights of citizenship. Who ever heard of a lawyer being disbarred, or doctors losing their licenses because of the participation in politics? Are teachers any worse than these? Are teachers in the same category as not only sickening humor, but in obviously insincere?"

URGE CHEAPER DIET.

Atlantic City, N. J., June 11.—The American people are being insuriously, said Dr. Alonzo E. Taylor of the University of Pennsylvania, in his address in medicine and food manufactures.

The condition, the speaker declared, will make it impossible for us to pay our war debts. The solution is a cereal diet. We can crack manufacturers cheered the suggestion—they are intensely interested in American grain, of course.

Prof. Taylor insisted that the nation does not expect to compete with other countries who are saving on their food bills.

The cereal diet is cheaper diet, these business men favored the antiwheat and a sales tax to replace the excess profits tax.

PROFITS IN SHIPPING.

New York, June 11.—The International Seamen's Union of America made a clear profit of $9,444,157 last year, after all stupendous amounts exclusive of all charges, and was made after deducting operating and general expenses, depreciation, excess profits taxes, interest on bonds and preferred stock and loss by depreciation in steamers.

This "clear velvet" of more than $9,000,000 is almost one-half of the clear profit made in 1919.

ENGRAVERS END STRIKE.

New York, June 11.—A strike of more than 200 newspaper photo engravers in this city has ended. The employers association and union has signed an agreement with the union.

The old wage scale is accepted while differences are being adjusted by conciliation. If this method fails after 60 days effort arbitration will be resorted to.

TRUSTS WORK BEHIND "OPEN PRICE" SCHEME

Washington, June 11.—The United States supreme court will consider the "open price" scheme of the Hardwood Manufacturers association at the fall term of court. For late years the trusts have perfected these "open price" associations to a high degree. Their professed aim is to "stabilize industry" by publishing production and other costs, establishing uniform accounting methods and supplying the market with only enough production that can be absorbed.

The theory is admirable, but in practice it is a most effective method of defeating the Sherman anti-trust law. It has been so used by the unity between capitalists, because of this information, is the result of specific understanding.

In a recent statement by the federal trade commission it is declared that the collection of this data by "open price" associations might prove of benefit to the consumer and producer alike "but unfortunately the tendency is here manifested to confine the information to members and to bring about a situation which tends to maintain them at an artificially high level of profit, thus restricting the supply through action which tends strongly towards uniformity. Information, instead of diffusion of information, but which purports to lack the essential of a competitive agreement characteristic of the combinations forbidden by the Sherman law.

"From its observation of "open price" associations among manufacturers the commission is prepared to believe that the manufacturers as associated are obtaining a more certain profit than is the corresponding disadvantage to the consumer, prices are fixed where such associations do not exist."

HIGH MORTALITY RATES.

Washington, June 11.—In 1919 one mother out of every 125 babies born, and every eleventh baby born died before he was a year old, says the United States children's bureau in a pamphlet that shows these high mortality rates are confined to the United States. In other countries there has been a decrease in the mortality rate since the war, while the rate in the United States rose from a low 1,000 births in 1915 to 6.2 in 1916, 6.6 in 1917, and to 7.4 in 1919. In this country there is no way of ascertaining accurately the proportion of babies who die from causes largely connected with the care of the mothers before birth.

The bureau shows that this mortality can be prevented by measures which include health centers, public health nurses, properly trained attendance at child birth, prenatal supervision of the mother, care of the mother in matters of child hygiene, and education of the general public in the necessity for maternal and infant health.

DEATHS IN TWO WARS.

Washington, June 11.—In discussing legislation for veterans of those who fought in the world war, Commander Rhodes of the Legion, presented official statistics on the civil war and the one that has just ended. In the civil war there were 2,772,465 Union troops engaged, and of these there were killed 359,528, 306,000 soldiers, sailors and marines, wounded. Of the latter, 2,056,000 were engaged, and of these 1,000,000 fought in France.

There were 115,500 deaths in the world war, divided as follows: Battle deaths, 50,000; wounded overseas, 206,000; died from disease, 57,500.

There were 249,944 deaths among the Union troops in the civil war, divided as follows: Killed in battle, 67,058; died of wounds, 43,012; died of disease, 199,720; died from other causes—accidents, in prisons, etc.—40,154.

Congressman Sweed showed that the total amount of pensions paid by the government from 1790 to 1919, inclusive, and not including pensions paid for the civil war, was $5,617,482,127.11. This does not include the cost of administering the pension system, which totaled $1,533,717,66 during the period 1866-1919.

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

New York, June 11.—The solidarity of the ladies' garment workers is this city has checked labor exploitation in this industry, and an agreement has been signed which between these workers and their organized employers which provides that there will be no increase in hours or decrease in pay during the life of the agreement.

A joint commission will be established in each shop and production records with a view of ironing out measures that will tend to increase the efficiency of the workers. The commission shall also act as a joint appeal committee and settle all disputes and complaints of employers and employed regarding production and production. Both sides agree to abide by the decision of the commission.

STOCK BROKERS BLUFF.

Philadelphia, June 11.—Tucked away in the financial columns of a local newspaper appears a notice that "Our Wall Street Correspondent," that is only intended for business men, says:

"The trading element professed to be greatly disappointed at the ruling of the railway labor board on the railroad wage question, but the professional bears are administering that real. Several weeks ago intimations were made by the board that if the wage reduction proposed would be between 10 and 15 per cent."

IDLENESS INCREASES.

Washington, June 11.—Unemployment increased approximately one-half 1 per cent during May, according to the department of labor. The statement is based upon reports from 1,423 firms, employing 501 or more persons, in 63 principal industrial centers of the country. The same firms employed 2,573,518 workers in May as against 1,560,749 in April.

GATLING GUN FRIEND LOSES HIS POSITION

Fresno, Cal., June 11.—Jerome O. Cross, anti-unionist and teacher-balling superintendent of public schools of this city, has been ousted. His brazen application of the political spoils system was too much for public opinion, which organized teachers aided in molding.

Cross is best remembered for this statement printed in the anti-union Los Angeles Times, last October: "I'm only way to deal with a teachers' union is to use a base ball bat or a gatling gun."

The passing of Cross is the end of a three-years' struggle of Fresno teachers, two-thirds of whom opposed favored for board of education several candidates pledged to oust Cross. In revenge for thus exercising their right of citizenship several of the most prominent teachers were forced to resign. These teachers were rated "A. No. 1" in professional ability and co-operation with their superiors, but were told that they must go because of their political choice.

"Cross were on the losing side," said Cross, "and you must reap the political reward."

An investigation by the rabid anti-union superintendent was so crude that the board was forced to disavow both its and his policies.

Trade unionists are now reminding Cross that his gatling gun has a kick.

UNION INSURANCE LEADS.

Washington, June 11.—The life insurance business of the International Association of Machinists involves greater sum than the combined insurance of the Pennsylvania railroad, the Union Pacific railroad, Standard oil, General Electric company and American Woolen company. The union's total insurance, which is under the strict supervision of the insurance commissioner, is estimated at $175,000,000, and is larger than the amount the four corporations are carrying on their employes.

The union is negotiating to extend its insurance feature to health and accident and to cover a child six months old up to the age of 16 years.

Secretary-Treasurer Davison of this international estimates that there are 1,000,000 children in families of union machinists, who are eligible for this insurance.

"When they reach the age of 16 years," he said, "they can, automatically, if they desire, take an examination at that time, or apprentices, or machinists' helpers, join the organization and secure a policy of life insurance of $500 for 50 cents per month, the same as their fathers did.

"Any contract for children's insurance substituted for one considered only from an old line legal reserve solvent industrial life insurance company, with the approval of the commissioner of insurance."

WOMEN'S WAGE IS LESS.

Washington, June 11.—The government employs 36,000 men and 22,000 women in the District of Columbia, and the average salary of these women is $200 less than the average salary of the men, Senator Smith, testifying before a congressional committee on the need for reclassification legislation, said. Smith is secretary of the legislative committee of national women's trade union league.

"The women are massed in the lower grades of work, and they are not equal to their work," she said. "Women are massed in the lower grades in the service receiving more than $1,800, by in an executive capacity at $1,800 and upward. Women fix an actual dead line for promotions of women, usually about $1,200 or $1,600. United States senators have told us in so many words, 'Why, $2,000 is enough for a woman.'"

The witness called attention to the fact that the average wage of women experts in the women's bureau is $1,800, against three at $2,000, while men engaged in comparable work for the bureau of labor statistics in the same department may receive $2,500, $3,700, and $3,800, and the 15 experts in the bureau of efficiency the minimum wage is $3,000, with a number receiving $5,000.

CREWLESS WARSHIP NOW.

Washington, June 11.—A war ship without crew and steered by wireless has been tested by Rear Admiral Robert S. Griffin of the navy department.

The discovery will be used in the coming tests between battleships and air planes, which are to be made in the Atlantic ocean. The ship will be guided by radio from the battleship Ohio. The apparatus aboard the ship will be under the direct control of the officer in charge of the Iowa from a distance of 500 miles.

The invention consists of a valve of secret construction which is attached to three parts of the machinery—the full engine, water engine and the steering gear. Thus the vessel is controlled when fuel is fueled and watered by radio. The apparatus is so sensitive the invention will be applied to gigantic torpedoes, which can be launched at a foe, no matter how distant.

BAKERS RESIST WAGE CUT.

Chicago, June 11.—More than 800 organized bakers are idle because they refused to accept a 20 per cent reduction. The employers decline to arbitrate, the strike purpose is shown in herding strikebreakers for weeks previous to the date the reduction was made.

During the war these employers professed their belief in "industrial democracy" and "industrial peace" and that "labor is entitled to share in the profits of industry."

KILL WORKERS' BILL.

Hartford, Conn., June 11.—Organized manufacturers were strong enough in the state legislature to smash the new compensation law after it had been unanimously passed by the senate judiciary committee. Senator Hall, a manufacturer, led the fight. Hall said: "This is not the time to make changes." The bill would not be effective for a year.

FLINTS TO MEET.

Sandusky, Ohio, June 11.—The annual convention of the American Flint Glass Workers' union will be held in this city beginning Tuesday, July 5.

AWFUL SHIP DISASTER MIGHT BE DUPLICATED

Chicago, June 11.—In opposing Congressman Scott's amendments to the seamen's act, the Sailors' Union of the Pacific has forgotten the terrible disaster of 1915, when nearly 1,000 men, women and children lost their lives through the capsizing of the excursion steamer Eastland in the Chicago river, just as she was leaving the docks."

The seamen call for public remonstrance against the three amendments which will permit excursion steamers on such routes as that traveled by the ill-fated Eastland to carry 20 per cent more people than they are now allowed on the steamer or 100 per cent more than allowed by the present law. This is to be accomplished by reducing the life raft equipment to one-half of present requirements, thus making it possible for the ship owners to double the number of passengers.

"The bill signed by the Scott amendments mean a return to conditions that existed prior to the Eastland disaster and regarding which the department of commerce and labor said that in its Arkansas 245 holders own 2,318,000 acres, or almost one-half as much land as the total acreage of the 114,678 farmers of that state.

In Colorado 14 known holders own 3,355,000 acres, as against 4,502,101 improved acres owned by 114,678 farmers. In New Mexico the Holland Land company has 4,500,000 acres—more than three times the combined improved acreage of 29,676 farmers of that state.

"Worse conditions exist in Texas, Florida, Mississippi, Florida, Oklahoma, Minnesota, North Dakota, Washington, and California, and 20,647,000 acres of land in the United States—an area as large as Ireland—is owned by 23 foreign syndicates and landlords.

In tracing the cause for migration from farms, the decrease of farm production because of small farms, and the concentration of land ownership, Congressman Keller said:

"It is amazing to blink at facts and to blindly believe that our nation is immune to the same social disorders which have ruined other great nations in the past. We see in our land the same growth conditions that preceded misfortune in other countries in different historic epochs. If we are to survive in a healthy condition, changing our course to meet constantly changing economic factors, but doing it by orderly and constitutional methods without internal struggles or violent dislocations, we must rid our body politic of the parasites that have produce disease and decay into the social system and threaten its destruction.

"The land values tax, unlike taxes on other values, does not drive of industry which are always shifted, can not be 'passed on' to the tenant, cannot be shifted in the form of higher rent or of higher price of product.

"Owners of vacant land and unused natural resources will be compelled to put property productive.

"Taxation on land values will make it unprofitable to monopolize natural resources and compel the owners of mines, mills, mines and water powers, till their lands and improve their city lots."

POSTPONE DECISIONS.

Washington, June 11.—Before adjourning for the summer months the United States supreme court dropped several labor cases "restored to the docket for re-argument before a full bench at the October term. These include the Coronoda-minery case, which involves the attempt of employers to seize the funds of a union because of the individual acts of officers of that union. The case came up from Arkansas and has been in the courts for seven years. Over $900,000 in coal mining bonds owned by the United Mine Workers are held by the Arkansas tribunals of judgments against it by lower courts. This case differs from the Coronado case in that the latter case rested on the theory that the individuals are responsible. In the case the union's funds were attached. If the miners lose their case the union and property of every union will be at the mercy of employers who can collect threefold damages under the Sherman anti-trust law for disorders created by their agents in the unions.

Other cases postponed in the so-called Granite City picketing case and the Bisbee (Ariz.) boycott case. These cases put the question of enforcing the boycott squarely before the court.

The court's action means that a constitutional test of the boycott as a final decision is made. When the court reassembles in October the president will probably have nominated a successor to the late Chief Justice White, thus avoiding the possibility of a tie vote.

MINIMIZE STARVATION.

Birmingham, Ala., June 11.—Trade unionists are interested in the attempt of local business interests to minimize starvation among Alabama coal miners who called a strike recently strike and agreed to abide by George Gompers' award. That official ruled against the miners in every instance and also declared that the miners were not entitled to reinstate strikers.

Business men have acted on this blacklist hint and destitution is general. Trade unionists are asking the distressed miners and the publicity has forced business interests to inquire into the cause of that the latter say they can "find only about 60-odd people, mostly negroes, who are starving and help in Jefferson county."

Back of this is the claim of these business interests that there are only a few families in Brookside who need relief. W. H. Hays, chairman of the relief committee in that district, stated that there is no publicity, and there are approximately 600 families who need relief.

TREATIES WON'T END WAR.

New York, June 11.—Treaties signed by men who want war will never stand in the way of war, Dr. William H. P. Faunce, president of Brown university, in an address to New York university students.

"As practical people," he said, "we must realize that peace will not come through mere paper programs or pleasant dreams. It will never come while nations are increasing and building battleships which must be used if they are to total loss of the investment. It will only come through men who have looked for the best in their neighbors and who armed against their foes by disarming them of suspicion."

MAY TAX VAULT SPACE.

Washington, June 11.—The United States supreme court has ruled that the District of Columbia has the right to tax safe deposit and vaults space under sidewalks. Business men had argued that permits to construct were in such form that they were given a vested right in perpetuity to the space in the streets of which they would be deprived without due process of law if they were required to pay.

The court held that the permit "is a revocable permission to use the certain land above their cost to the contractor.

The worker's wage is known, and so is the price of material, so let the contractor tell what he charges they charge, say the unionists.

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"MOLDING PUBLIC OPINION."

Washington, June 11.—Published statements from the Philippines to the effect that a portion of the Filipinos are opposed to independence is branded as untrue, in a statement issued by the Philippine bureau.

"We have received authoritative information that these dispatches are a scheme to influence public opinion in the United States against independence," declares the statement.

LAND SPECULATORS ESCAPE WHILE INDUSTRY IS TAXED

Washington, June 11.—In urging a national land values taxation, Congressman Keller, of Minnesota, indicated how owners of vast areas escape taxation while those who have low-living standards for workers to detract from a monopoly that affects the nation's life.

The lawmaker showed that under a land values tax speculative values of land would pay more taxes than all the producing farmers in America. He said three railroads, the Northern Pacific, the Southern Pacific, and the Santa Fe—owe a total of 32,493,000 acres of undeveloped land, or enough, if divided into 40-acre tracts, to give home to more than 400,000 of America's tenant farmers.

Estimates based on the last census reports, he said, show that land values and industrial values in this country aggregate about $140,000,000,000 each. Between 87½ and sixty billion dollars worth of vacant land and unused natural resources escape paying any share of federal taxes, either direct or indirect.

The bill urged by the congressman would exempt agricultural land in actual use.

As an indication of the growing concentration of land ownership, Congressman Keller said that in Arkansas 245 holders own 2,318,000 acres, or almost one-half as much land as the total acreage of the 114,678 farmers of that state.

In Colorado 14 known holders own 3,355,000 acres, as against 4,502,101 improved acres owned by 114,678 farmers. In New Mexico the Holland Land company has 4,500,000 acres—more than three times the combined improved acreage of 29,676 farmers of that state.

"Worse conditions exist in Texas, Florida, Mississippi, Florida, Oklahoma, Minnesota, North Dakota, Washington, and California, and 20,647,000 acres of land in the United States—an area as large as Ireland—is owned by 23 foreign syndicates and landlords.

In tracing the cause for migration from farms, the decrease of farm production because of small farms, and the concentration of land ownership, Congressman Keller said:

"It is amazing to blink at facts and to blindly believe that our nation is immune to the same social disorders which have ruined other great nations in the past. We see in our land the same growth conditions that preceded misfortune in other countries in different historic epochs. If we are to survive in a healthy condition, changing our course to meet constantly changing economic factors, but doing it by orderly and constitutional methods without internal struggles or violent dislocations, we must rid our body politic of the parasites that have produce disease and decay into the social system and threaten its destruction.

"The land values tax, unlike taxes on other values, does not drive of industry which are always shifted, can not be 'passed on' to the tenant, cannot be shifted in the form of higher rent or of higher price of product.

"Owners of vacant land and unused natural resources will be compelled to put property productive.

"Taxation on land values will make it unprofitable to monopolize natural resources and compel the owners of mines, mills, mines and water powers, till their lands and improve their city lots."

AWAKENING IS COMING IN THUG-RIDDEN STATE

Charleston, W. Va., June 11.—In an address to business men in this city, Governor Morgan said: "Thank God the awakening is coming in Mingo county."

To this statement the West Virginia Federationist replies:

"Yes, it is coming, but through no effort of you, the coal masters or any of the state officials.

"The awakening will arrive when the federal investigation committee makes public their findings and exposes the vicious system of the industrial oligarchy in this state, which brute force and crushed a liberty loving people under the heel of greed by the usurpation of state authority and the enforcement of a law of the Baldwin-Felts, the hands of their thug army, aided and abetted by the public officials whom they own and control.

"The awakening was absolutely right when he stated that the people of West Virginia don't understand conditions in all extent yet. It they did there would be a storm of protest throughout the entire state demanding that the officials who swore duty to uphold law and order be removed from the prison camp of coal company thugs from Mingo, Logan, Kanawha, Boone counties and restore constitutional rights and citizenship thereof.

"It is hard to acquaint the people with conditions he could not remedy, as the prisoners at Charleston Mail in the Mingo county mob law, said: "What is needed to settle the strike in Mingo county is a few tugs by the sheriff's authority and a stout rope.

"In other words, the Mail advocates that the thugs and bums employed by the coal operators in Mingo county be used to terrify the miners' strike and stirring up the citizens of Mingo county who are fighting for their American rights and more bread and butter for their families.

ALIENS WHO MAY COME.

Washington, June 11.—Under the new immigration law, quotas limiting immigration to 3 per cent of the number in this country in 1910, 75,206 immigrants will be allowed to enter from the United Kingdom; Ireland, 13,146; Germany, 68,059; Norway, 6,564; Denmark, 5,644; Netherlands, 8,662; Belgium, 1,563; Luxemburg, 92; France, 3,073; Switzerland, 5,745; Germany, 68,059; Danzig, 215; Austria, 7,342; Hungary, 5,635; Czechoslovakia, 2,249; Spain, 952; Italy, 42,021; Russia, 34,284; Austria, 7,444; Hungary, 5,635; Russia, 2,248